

Whether you're travelling from Perth to the Goldfields, or from the west to east coast, this trip is a rewarding alternative to the Great Eastern Highway direct route, adding only 44 kilometres to the journey. It offers the remarkable view of wildflowers in colourful profusion during the season, invigorating leg-stretching nature walks, as well as numerous buildings and museums reflecting the unique rural historical significance of the region.

Leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and follow the Pioneers' Pathway Self Drive through the hills to the pretty historic and farming town from Toodyay to Merredin.

This scenic journey wanders past expansive Wheatbelt farmland and through the small towns of Toodyay, Goomalling, Dowerin, Wyalkatchem, Nungarin and Merredin, providing a classic experience of Western Australia's Wheatbelt heartland.

## Come, take the time, learn the stories and explore the Pioneers' Pathway.

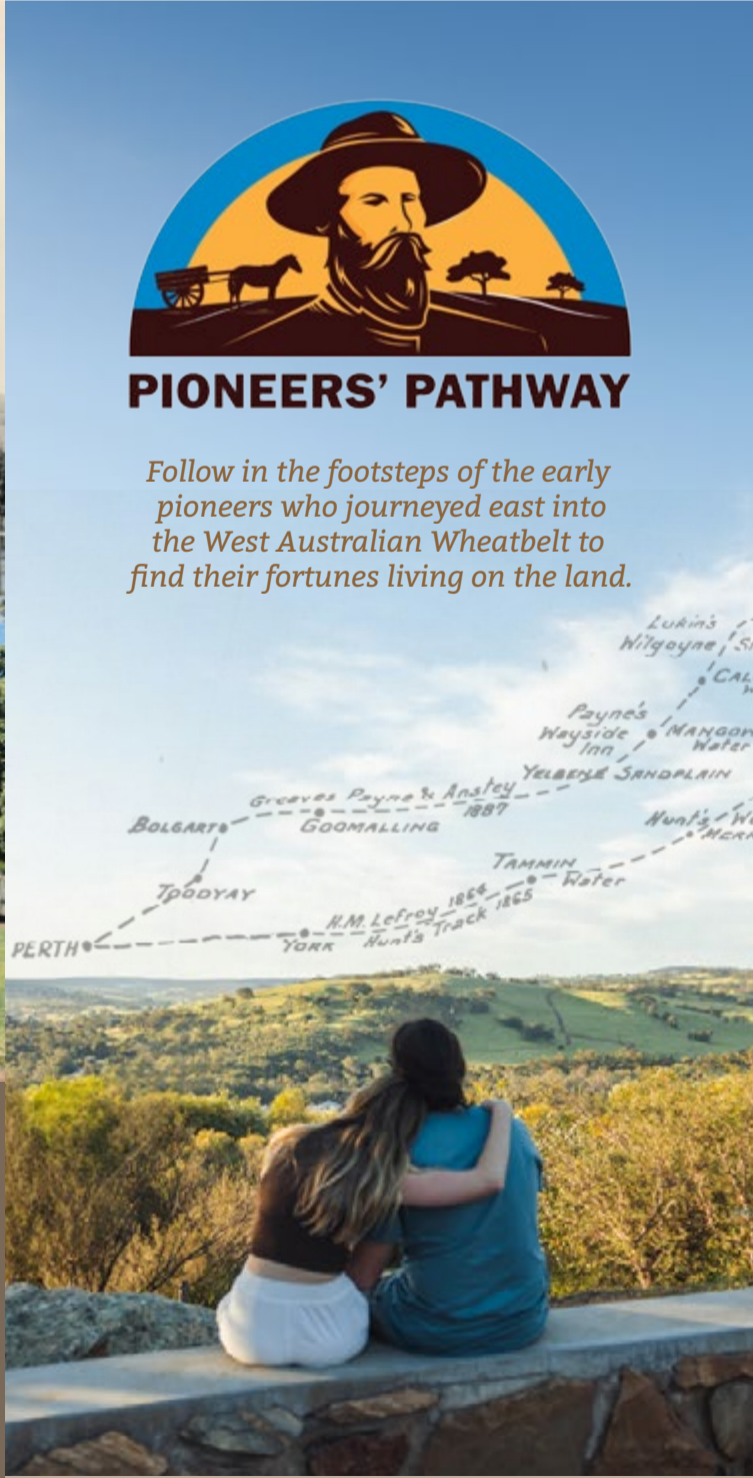
Learn their stories, of the men from bushrangers to farmers and pastoralists and how the company that is Australia's largest exporter of grain was started right here in the Wheatbelt.

Hear the accounts of the women who were lawyers, nurses, teachers, wives and mothers who conquered, survived and thrived in the harsh conditions of these towns that remain today.



The Pioneers' Pathway is the self-drive route that traverses the Wheatbelt following the well worn trail many prospectors once took on their way to the Yilgarn and Kalgoorlie Goldfields.

Discover the people who have helped make the Wheatbelt the place it is today.



## PIONEERS' PATHWAY

Follow in the footsteps of the early pioneers who journeyed east into the West Australian Wheatbelt to find their fortunes living on the land.



Discover the character, charm and unique history of Pioneers' Pathway through the Storytowns audio tour.

Storytowns immersive audio guide offers authentic tales from the heart of each community. Download the Storytowns app for free from the app store and start your journey today.

[www.pioneerspathway.com.au](http://www.pioneerspathway.com.au)

For more information please contact  
Toodyay Visitor Centre: 08 9574 9380  
Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre: 08 9041 1666

Follow us on social media:

@pioneerspathway  

**STORYTOWNS**

Scan the QR code to download the App



Toodyay • Goomalling • Dowerin • Wyalkatchem • Nungarin • Merredin

## Moondyne Joe

### Toodyay's most infamous character

Discover Moondyne Joe, Toodyay's notorious character, a real-life Artful Dodger in Western Australia. Escaping prisons with nimble finesse, he became a thorn in the Governor's side. Was he a slippery fish or just someone with a dislike for authority? Born in the UK, Joe's escapades led him to Fremantle, where he earned a ticket of leave.

Working various jobs, including stock trapping near Moondyne Springs, Joe lived eight years on the straight before stealing a horse near Toodyay. Breaking out using the stolen horse and the judge's new gear, he became a local legend for his defiance and cheeky contempt for the law.

Transferred to Fremantle's Convict Establishment, Joe even took up the Governor's challenge to escape a special cell, leading to his ultimate release. Today, the Newcastle Gaol Museum in Toodyay features a dedicated cell, a ironic tribute to a man who craved freedom. While Fremantle Prison houses the cell where he pondered escape, Toodyay hosts the lively Moondyne Festival midyear and welcomes visitors to the Newcastle Gaol Museum year-round. Experience the convict era's infamous glory on a day tour. Come visit the Newcastle Gaol Museum!

#### Newcastle Gaol Museum

**Opening Hours** Open 7 days 10.00am to 3.00pm  
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday

**Location** 13 Clinton Street, Toodyay

Admission fees apply



## Tractor fan?

### Come to Wyalkatchem

Explore Wyalkatchem, affectionately known as "Wylie" by locals. Once a stop for gold prospectors heading to Kalgoorlie, this town is now celebrated for its farming and pioneering heritage. The CBH museum, housed in a historic wheat bin, showcases the town's role as the cradle of bulk wheat handling.

Don't miss the 'Waterloo Boy,' a 1920 John Deere tractor still running efficiently after a century! The museum boasts over 500 items, including rare wagons and farming equipment from the 19th century. Wyalkatchem, the first shire to handle bulk wheat in 1931, played a vital role in shaping the grain economy.

Meet John Lindsay, an early pioneer turned influential politician. From overcoming farming challenges to advocating for increased farming land, Lindsay's story embodies progress and development. Whether a farmer with a political knack or a politician with a farmer's mind, Lindsay's legacy lives on in Wyalkatchem's vibrant history.

#### CBH Museum

**Opening Hours** Weekdays - 9.00am to 4.00pm  
Weekends - 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Location** Lot 1500 Railway Terrace, Wyalkatchem

Admission fees apply



## The Slater Family

### Goomalling's true pioneers

Experience the pioneer spirit with George Slater, a 19th-century trailblazer in Goomalling, akin to the Elon Musk of his time. As the first settler and farmer, he built in 1856 the inaugural homestead, residence, and schoolroom. George, a visionary entrepreneur, dabbled in various ventures, including breeding horses for the Indian Army.

During the gold rush, Slater Homestead became a bustling Inn, hosting gold prospectors like Arthur Bayley and explorer Sir John Forrest.

Today, the heritage property is open to the public. Immerse yourself in the past, visit the barn with local photo collections, and savor scones and tea at Mary's Tearoom. Step into the 21st century by staying at the beautifully restored homestead or simply drop in for a day. George Slater's legacy lives on!

#### Mary's Tearoom

**Opening Hours** By appointment, please contact (08) 9629 1101

**Location** 62 Goomalling-Wyalkatchem Rd, Goomalling

## Jane Adams

### The pioneering spirit of women

Meet Jane Adams, the unsung heroine of pioneering spirit! Affectionately called 'Granny Adams,' she defied norms, managing Mangowine Homestead in Nungarin with resilience. Born in Toodyay, she and cobbler husband Charles settled in the remote Wheatbelt, building the unique stone and mudbrick Mangowine Homestead.

Isolated but determined, Jane kept detailed weather records for 47 years while caring for nine children, running an inn, and managing the property after Charles' death. Overcoming challenges, she took on the mail run, becoming a mentor for struggling farmers after the government opened up land in 1900.

Granny Adams, a true pioneer, passed away at 83, honored in the Western Australian Agricultural Hall of Fame. If you're a woman exploring the area, pay respects to this land and women's pioneer - Jane Adams, at the National Trust Homestead a symbol of strength and resilience.

#### Mangowine Homestead

**Opening Hours** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 1.00pm to 4.00pm  
Weds - closed  
Weekends - 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Location** 737 Karomin Road, Nungarin

Admission fees apply



## Joe Anderson

### The past and present and the spirit

Discover Dowerin's hidden charm! Once overshadowed, this West Australian town owes its recognition to enterprising pioneers. In the 1800s, deep lakes and lush vegetation defined the landscape, later cleared for agriculture. Notable pioneer Joe Anderson, drawn by a proposed railway line, overcame challenges, including a humorous land mix-up, to settle successfully at Thirteen Mile.

Meet Rusty and Rosie the Tin Dogs, unique metal sculpture that are a symbol of Dowerin's resilience, Rusty and Rosie blends the spirit of pioneers and the town's modern vibrancy. Visit Dowerin to witness the convergence of two worlds, united by a never-give-up attitude. Explore the town's history at the Museum and along the town's walk trails, marvel at Rusty and Rosie, and embrace the enduring spirit that defines Dowerin today.

For more information, get a walk trail map and to make a booking to view the Museum.

#### Dowerin Museum

Bookings are by arrangement through the Dowerin Community Resource Centre on 9631 1662 or the Shire Administration Offices on 9631 1202.

Admission fees apply

**Location** 16 Cottrell Street, Dowerin



## Alice Cummins

### Changing Merredin's fate

Meet Alice Cummins, a pioneer with a 21st-century spirit! WA's first female barrister, she became the Managing Director of Kalgoorlie Brewing & Ice Co. Ltd. Alice's bold move to introduce German-style lager, Hannans, paid off, making the brewery a success.

The Cummins family, also involved in farming and mining, contributed significantly to Merredin's cultural scene. James Cummins, Alice's father, commissioned the Cummins Theatre, a structural marvel ahead of its time. Originally built with materials from Coolgardie's Tivoli Theatre, that James bought, dismantled and then transported to Merredin by rail. Structurally, Cummins Theatre was a building ahead of its time. The specifications for the building was higher than that required to show pictures - the fly tower and proscenium arch was included for professional stage performance. The aim for the theatre was to encourage culture in the region, it has since hosted legendary performers like AC/DC, Slim Dusty, and The Wiggles.

Today, Cummins Theatre remains a vibrant multi-purpose space, hosting live performances, films, events, and more. Experience history and modernity in one place!

#### Cummins Theatre

**Opening Hours** Weekdays - 9.00am to 3.00pm

**Location** 31 Bates Street, Merredin

